

That is what the Republican majority plans to do.

During the debate on the balanced budget amendment, the rhetoric was thick with charges that the Congress does not need a constitutional amendment to balance the budget, all we need to do is offer a balanced budget. Well, the need for the balanced budget amendment is shown clearly by the President's just released budget.

The President's budget is a lost opportunity to do what he called for in his State of the Union speech, a balanced budget without the need for a constitutional amendment. In the President's budget, there is no entitlement reform, no welfare reform, and spending in most major departments goes up. Department of the Interior spending is up; HUD and the Labor Department get an increase in spending; the EPA gets an increase in spending; the Energy Department gets a spending increase even through the administration once talked about abolishing the Department; and even the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities get increases.

The bottom line is not a balanced budget, it is \$200 billion deficits as far as the eye can see.

This is not what the average American is looking for. America wants a balanced budget. Unfortunately, the President has left the heavy lifting to the Republican Congress. Our goal is not \$200 billion deficits, but a balanced budget with zero deficits. We must lead and meet the challenge and produce a budget that makes the tough cuts.

During the balanced budget debate, some questioned whether we can ever balance the budget. Opponents like to point to the fact that over \$1.2 trillion in spending must be reduced. This huge number is used to show how painful it would be to actually enforce a balanced budget amendment by 2002.

This argument could only occur inside the beltway. Though Republicans abolished baseline budgeting on opening day, much more must be done before the terms of the debate are changed.

Baseline budgeting is the process of assuming automatic spending increases every year. If Congress appropriates anything less than the baseline spending growth, there has been a cut. I suspect most Americans believe a cut is when you spend less than you did the year before, not less than you thought you would spend.

The current debate about a balanced budget amendment demonstrates why this issue of baseline budgeting is so important. Every nickel of the \$1.2 trillion that must be cut is projected baseline growth.

As the chart next to me shows, the CBO projects that spending growth will average 5.3 percent a year through 2002. Under this scenario Federal spending will grow from \$1.5 trillion this year to \$2.2 trillion in 2002, and the deficit in

2002 will be well in excess of \$300 billion.

Of course, this assumes Congress does nothing to alter current spending patterns. If Congress instead manages to hold overall spending growth to 2 percent per year, the payoff for this discipline will be the first balanced budget in 33 years. And as I noted earlier, \$1 trillion more will still be spent over those 7 years than if spending had been frozen.

So let me answer the doubters, there is no doubt about it, we can balance the budget by 2002. It can be done in a reasoned and responsible manner—by holding overall spending growth to 2 percent a year.

It is not my intention to suggest that this will be easy. It will be difficult, particularly for those programs that are growing rapidly. But this is Congress' job, it is what the American people want.

Over the last three decades Congress has dropped the ball on the budget. This is why we need the balanced budget amendment and the 2-percent solution. With them we can build a secure future for our grandchildren.

#### A SCORCHED EARTH POLICY IN THE REPUBLICAN'S WAR ON CHILDREN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. OLVER] is recognized during morning business for 3 minutes.

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, legend has it that Republicans know more about making profitable investments than Democrats, but with the Contract on America, that legend becomes a vicious myth.

The Republicans want to slash funding for children's foster care, and children's adoption assistance, and child abuse prevention, and children's care while parents have to work, and preschool children's Head Start, and Drug Free Schools for Children, and children's health care, and children's school lunches, and prenatal nutrition, which has saved billions of dollars by reducing the number of low birthweight babies born in this country, as the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. DURBIN] spoke so eloquently about just a few minutes ago.

These extremists are not even happy with hungry children. They want to cut every penny of home energy assistance, so thousands of children are going to go to bed cold as well as hungry.

Mr. Speaker, Americans should understand exactly what is going on with this extremist agenda. This is not about thoughtful, even-handed deficit reduction. It goes much further than the elimination of bureaucracy or waste. This is a scorched earth policy in the Republican war on children.

The radical right extremist agenda is to wash their hands of any responsibility for the welfare of the American family, shift that responsibility to the States, and at the same time, cut billions of dollars needed by the States to

adequately protect children; protect their health, their safety, their schooling, and their stomachs.

It is even a myth that these cuts reduce the deficit. Our radical right is willing to hurt children so they can buy fantasy projects like the star wars antiballistic missile system, and so they can shovel out massive tax breaks to the very wealthiest few Americans.

Children cannot vote, so they are being trashed, and it is shameful. The health, the schooling, and the safety of children should be the first priority for every Member of Congress whose job it is to build a better nation. It is shameful to throw the responsibility to the States and then cut the dollars the States need to meet it.

When they cannot meet it, we will all find out that turning our backs on children is a terrible way to invest in America's future.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the House will stand in recess until 12 noon.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 17 minutes a.m.) the House stood in recess until 12 noon.

□ 1100

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. ZELIFF].

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

For all the opportunities, O God, that lie before us and every person, we offer our thanks; for all the possibilities for knowledge and understanding, we are grateful; for friends and family and colleagues who support us and help show the way, we express our gratitude. May we be so fervent in our tasks, gracious God, that we will be worthy of the calling we have been given to be of service to other people in doing the deeds of justice and by providing leadership in the cause of peace and reconciliation for every person. Bless us this day and every day, we pray. Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HOBSON] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.